

From: Christian Klein
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/8/02 9:33am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have been unable to locate information regarding the actual penalties Microsoft is being levied. I have heard through the media, that Microsoft will "pay" a penalty by donating software and equipment to schools.

Assuming this is the case, this would not actually penalize Microsoft, but would allow them to create a market for their products where one does not currently exist. This market has been one of Apple's few competitive arenas with Microsoft. When updates to "donated" products become available, Microsoft will easily recoup any expenses incurred. Since their initial donation cost will be significantly lower than the sale price of the products, their actual penalty would be lower, allowing them to move into a new market and make a profit in quick time, while appearing to be either coming clean or even generous.

Again, assuming this is the case, I would encourage the DOJ to consider a penalty that would actually penalize the company. Microsoft could be required to provide equipment specified by the school, without regard to the manufacturer. Alternately, Microsoft could be required to provide free software and updates for all products to schools in perpetuity. I don't want to see the DOJ softening and letting Microsoft dictate the terms of their own penalty.

I have been appalled at Microsoft's conduct, and I ask that they be held accountable.

Sincerely,

Christian Klein